



## Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline Policy on Office-Based Esthetic Procedures

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It is often necessary to determine the standard of care in order for the BMLD [Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline] to respond to complaints brought to its attention. Sometimes these standards are set forth in legislation, or, more commonly, by regulation. At other times they are not. In these circumstances it is the Board's charge to make this determination. The legislation that describes the BMLD's activities grants the Board the power to determine the "...minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice..."[5-37-5.1(19)].

Periodically, the BMLD issues these determinations as policy statements that guide its decision making. The BMLD posts these position statements on its website [<http://www.docboard.org/ri/positions.htm>] and disseminates them throughout the physician community. At the November meeting, the Board issued the following statement on office-based esthetic procedures.

### POLICY STATEMENT ON OFFICE-BASED ESTHETIC PROCEDURES

It is the position of the Board that office based cosmetic or esthetic procedures that require the use of medical lasers, high-frequency radio waves, or injection of sclerosing chemicals or biologically active compounds [e.g. Botulinum toxin A, Botox] are medical procedures.

Therefore, prior to undergoing such procedures patients must receive a medical evaluation for appropriateness by a licensed and qualified physician [or other practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice]. Although these procedures may be performed by an appropriately trained nonphysician working under the supervision and direction of a physician, it is the supervising physician's responsibility to assure that procedures are conducted appropriately; with appropriate assessment, consent and follow-up; and upon appropriate patients; and that all patient records are maintained according to standards applicable for medical records; and that patient privacy is protected. The supervising physician is responsible for any procedures carried out by nonphysicians under his/her direction.

Physicians who perform and supervise such procedures must be able to demonstrate appropriate training and experience. Such training and experience may include, but is not limited to, residency or fellowship. The physician is responsible to assure and document adequate training for individuals under his/her supervision.

Cosmetic procedures such as dermabrasion or the application of potentially scarring chemical treatments [e.g. so-called chemical peels] should also meet this same standard.

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